

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of Brenda Rosadiuk, *Chair*, Joan Zaporosky, *Vice Chair*, Shirley Caputo, Betsy DeClercq, Carol DeMong, Ken Fate, and John Stitzenberger

Capital Projects Update

Facility Services provided their regular updates to the Board on two current capital projects in the Division: the modernization project for Grande Cache Community High School (GCCHS) and the new replacement school in Edson, Mary Bergeron Elementary.

GCCHS: Work on the remaining deficiencies is continuing with some being completed over the summer when school is out. The exterior masonry and stone work is nearing completion and the phenolic panels are being installed. The front entrance sidewalk is scheduled to be completed this week. The exterior construction area is being cleaned and the landscaping will be completed as weather permits.

Edson: The modular classrooms have been installed, all interior block work is completed and painting has started on the east wing and will continue to the west wing. Ceramic tile installation in the washrooms has started and the classroom flooring is scheduled to be installed in early July. Exterior site work has started on the parking lot.

Other News in Brief

- The Board was pleased to approve \$5,000 in funding to the Parkland Composite High School's Envirothon Team in support of their attendance at this year's North American Championship in Maryland. The five student team recently won the provincial competition which advanced them to the next level where they will represent their high school, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, and Alberta.
- Administration was directed to begin negotiations with other community partners in Edson to seek support for the continuation of the School Resource Officer program piloted in the 2016-17 school year by the local RCMP detachment.
- As part of the recent provincial negotiations, all school divisions will have access to Classroom Improvement Funding for the 2017-18 school year in support of initiatives to improve the student experience in the classroom. Trustee Stitzenberger, Deputy Superintendent Murray and Assistant Superintendent Shipka will represent the Board on the local Committee with equal representation from the local branch of the Alberta Teachers' Association. The Committee will meet in the fall to distribute funds according to locally established priorities.
- As part of the merging of Evergreen and A.H. Dakin Schools in Edson, the Board approved the use of \$200,000 to cover the move of the current playground equipment from Evergreen School to the Mary Bergeron site. The playground equipment was recently acquired from fundraising efforts by Evergreen School over the last two years with the intention of relocating the items to the new school site once the construction of the school was complete.
- The 2017-18 Annual Communications Plan was approved which outlines the specific strategies and goals to enhance communications with all stakeholders across the division. The complete plan is available on the division's website.
- A review of the Third Quarter Financial Report noted that the division is within targeted budget projections for the current year as of May 31st.
- An overview of the current full day enhanced Early Childhood Services (ECS) program was discussed with trustees including the additional supports and resources planned for the 2017-18 school year to assist student readiness for Grade 1. For 2016-17, focus was on incorporating self-regulation and literacy in the classroom through technology and universal

practices. The upcoming year will continue that work along with assessments for early numeracy, improving fine-motor skills and supporting social-emotional growth in our young learners.

- To align with the recently proclaimed Bill 1 and related School Fee Regulations, GYPSD's Administrative Procedure 505 - School Fees was revised to eliminate the inclusion of instructional material fees. Trustees received a schedule of other proposed 2017-18 program and non-program fees from all schools which varied between schools due to costs, programming and budgetary constraints.
- Earlier this month, Grande Yellowhead submitted proposals to access a provincial Nutritional Health Grant of up to \$141,000 for the 2017-18 school year to provide one meal per day per student in a school (K to Grade 6 only). Both Sheldon Coates and SonRise Christian in Grande Cache do not currently have a nutrition program in their building and were interested in creating one. Due to health regulations requiring modifications to the facilities, most of the funding proposals for both programs targetted sustainable items such as sanitizing dishwashers, sinks, handwashing stations and basic kitchen equipment to ensure the program could continue through other sponsorship as it is unknown if future grants would be available. GYPSD's funding proposal is currently being reviewed by the province and the results should be known before the end of the current school year.
- Fifty people attended the annual Indigenous Teacher Camp held November 23-25, 2016 at the Palisades Centre in Jasper National Park. Grande Yellowhead hosted the Camp where half of the participants were from GYPSD and the balance included staff from areas such as Living Waters Catholic Regional Division, Sturgeon School Division, St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic Schools, Greater St. Albert Public Schools, Edmonton Public Schools, Wolf Creek School Division, Elk Island Public Schools, Black Gold Regional School Division, Paul Band First Nations, and Alberta Education. The division was also pleased to have an elder from Hinton join the event as well as two members from the Royal Alberta Museum. In May, almost 70 Cree language students from Grande Yellowhead participated in Indigenous Youth Camps which included learning various cultural traditions and basic survival skills. Next year's Indigenous Teacher Camp will be developed for administrators and senior administration to gain knowledge required to meet the Principal Quality Standards and support teachers within their schools. It will be hosted by the Alberta Teachers' Association's 'Walking Together Team' and will include presentations from Fort McMurray principals on how their jurisdiction has set Indigenous students up for success.